

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Reassignment of Chinese Communist Troops to Agricultural and Water Conservation Work, East China	DATE DISTR.	3 February 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [redacted] five Agricultural Reconstruction (AR) Divisions (6593/1696/1597) and one Water Conservation (WC) Division were organized in the East China Military Area. The Revolutionary Military Council instructed the East China Military Area to organize these divisions with troops from Field Armies and other units under its command.<sup>1</sup> The divisions were to farm, plant trees and reclaim wasteland.
2. The 1 and 2 AR Divisions were in Shantung, the 3 in Chekiang, the 4 in Southern Kiangsu and the 5 in Northern Kiangsu. The WC Division was assigned to the Huai River Project in Anhwei.
  - a. The WC Division incorporated one division of the 30 Army<sup>2</sup> [redacted]
  - b. The Fukien Military Area did not organize a reconstruction unit because of its unique position and mission (sic).
3. Each AR division was composed of 9,750 men, most of whom were either 40 years old, disabled, ill, of low cultural level or former farmers.
4. These units were formed as part of a general program to cut military expenditures by using troops of the major military areas on industrial, agricultural, railway and water conservation projects. The Revolutionary Military Council termed agricultural reconstruction the major task and water conservation the minor task of the East China Military Area. The council said reassignment of personnel to projects should leave sufficient troops available to supply the army, liberate Taiwan, strengthen national defense, and suppress counter-revolutionaries.

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1. [redacted] Comment. Similar reports have indicated the army is used for agriculture in South and Central China. [redacted] a division of the 49 Army was put to work on rubber plantations in Kwangtung [redacted] demobilization

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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of about 10,000 regular army troops in the Kwangsi area. [redacted]  
[redacted] Non-commissioned officers and soldiers in this group were assigned to agricultural work. Army interest in agriculture was also indicated when the Chekiang Public Security Department opened a reform farm at Ch'iao Szu (2890/0674) to train demobilized troops in new agricultural techniques [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. According to available information the 30 Army was inactivated [redacted] and was not carried on order of battle listings [redacted]

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